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can read Taine's *Ancien Régime*. If he is a student, and seeks to become familiar with the precise nature of the former institutions of France, he can learn much from Chéruelet's *Dictionnaire des Institutions*, and many similar works.

The Vicomte de Broc has not added to our store of information concerning the old régime, and he has not the art of arrangement, or of analysis, or of philosophical deduction, which can convert the researches of others into forms that shall attract the public attention. His work is not of special value to the student. It is not of special interest to the ordinary reader ; and so, although it is temperate in tone, respectable in scholarship, and moderate in bulk, it does not seem to be an important contribution to French history.

JAMES BRECK PERKINS.

*History of Prussia under Frederic the Great.* By HERBERT TUTTLE. Vols. I and II. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1888. — xvi, 308 and 334 pp.

Professor Tuttle, whose *History of Prussia to the Accession of Frederic the Great* has done so much for a proper understanding, in this country, of the growth and consolidation of the Prussian state in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, has taken up the thread of the narrative where he left it off in his former book, and, in the present two volumes, carries us down from the beginning of Frederic's reign to the outbreak of the Seven Years' war.

Mr. Tuttle is no hero worshipper. His admiration for the great king is not altogether an unmixed one. Yet he by no means underrates the extraordinary genius of the man, his keenness of judgment, his boldness of action, his almost unlimited capacity for work. And since Carlyle's *Friedrich II* there has been perhaps no other book in English or American literature which draws the figure of the king as the centre and main-spring in the political organization of the Prussia of that time in outlines so clear and strong. The main efforts of recent historical writers on Frederic's reign have been directed toward details. A great mass of new material has been accumulated, none of it so important as the *Politische Correspondenz* and the various other publications from the Prussian archives. But Mr. Tuttle is the first to bring this new material to bear upon the whole of Frederic's government — the first, since Carlyle, to gather the scattered researches about various phases of Frederic's policy and character into one complete and well-rounded picture of the man.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In Germany, Prof. W. Oncken, in his *Zeitalter Friedrichs des Grossen* (Berlin, 1881), has undertaken a task somewhat similar to that of Professor Tuttle, although different in its compass.

And yet it is not here that the chief value of these volumes is to be found. However greatly our knowledge of the details of Frederic's life and personality may have been increased of late, the main features of the portrait drawn by Carlyle have remained unchanged; and Mr. Tuttle does not mean to sing an *Ilias post Homerum*. Not the history of Frederic, but the history of Prussia under Frederic is his subject. To use Mr. Tuttle's own words, "it is the development of polity, the growth of institutions, the progress of society," which he has made it his object to describe. The picture is, upon the whole, far from being pleasant. A king, who calls himself and indeed is the first servant of the state, but who, at the same time, is entirely devoid of any human sympathy with his subjects, being alienated from them "by his tastes, by his language, by his tone of mind and methods of thought, by his views upon society, religion, moral conduct, and other momentous concerns of human life"; an army, unparalleled for its discipline and efficiency, but sorely lacking the sense of freemen and of true, manly patriotism; a host of officials, strict, honest, indefatigable, but mere tools in the hands of superiors, harsh, illiberal, unamiable; a people, orderly and industrious, but without initiative and self-reliance, hemmed in by unsurmountable class distinctions, cowed by governmental interference, — in short a system of government which "sacrifices society to the state, the classes to society, and each individual to his own class." There is doubtless a great deal of truth in this picture; and as a reaction against the blind praise and worship which of late has been heaped so lavishly upon the great king's name, it will help the cause of just and impartial judgment and of true historical insight.

As yet, however, Mr. Tuttle has not spoken his last word about the Friderician system; he promises us two other volumes, which are to cover the last thirty years of Frederic's reign. And perhaps it is not out of place to suggest one point which, if taken into due account, seems likely to influence decisively his final verdict: the tremendous moral force, namely, which after all was the moving spirit of the apparently spiritless and automatic machinery of the Prussian state under Frederic's rule. There are times in a people's history when concentration of all forces upon one end is a public duty, when the gain of the community cannot be had except at the cost of the individual, when freedom must be sacrificed to the performance of a great national task. That Frederic and his people were alive to this necessity, is the one thing which has given to Prussia the moral claim to leadership in Germany.

KUNO FRANCKE.